

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia
SUBJECT State Defense Guard (Straz Obrany Statu--SOS)

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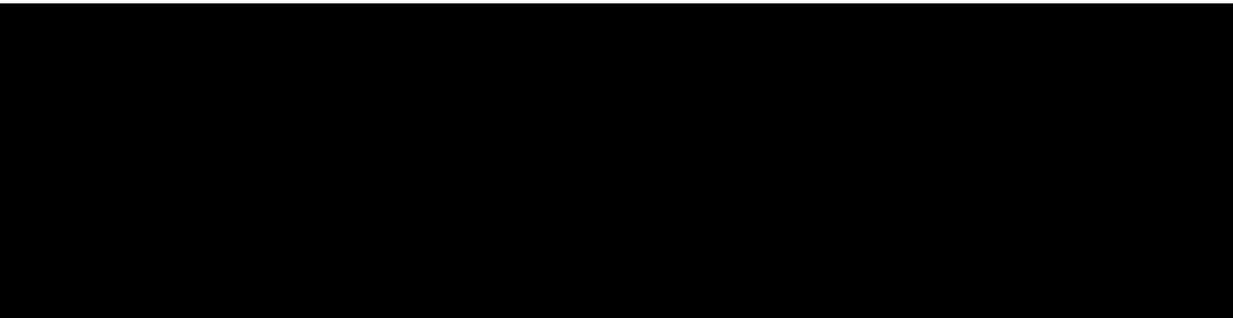
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The State Defense Guard (Straz Obrany Statu--SOS) was established in 1937 to protect the Czech frontier from German invasion. It was organized into battalions under military command and was considered to be part of the army. An SOS battalion was composed of three companies: one company consisted of members of the gendarmerie, the second of members of the uniformed police, and the third of members of the customs border guards. Their personnel was augmented by first army reserve members who had been checked for political reliability and loyalty. In May 1938 SOS battalions were posted at the first military defense lines but they ceased to function when Germany annexed the Sudetenland in September 1938.
2. In July 1948 it was decided to reactivate the SOS, and pertinent instructions for recruiting members were issued to SNB unit commanders in the border areas and to the military garrison command in Karlovy Vary.
3. Plans labeled "A", "B" and "C" concerning the forming of SOS units were given to SNB platoon commanders. In compliance with these plans all SNB stations in the border areas were to find as many reliable military reservists in their districts as possible. Thus every SNB platoon would be in a position to bring up its strength to that of a company (103 men) when the SOS was reestablished. If any district were unable to obtain sufficient military reservists, the next higher SNB echelon was to have the task of selecting suitable reinforcements.
4. Plan "A" contained the names of all military reservists selected by the platoon from its district. Plan "B" contained the names of military reinforcements selected by the stations of the next higher SNB echelon. Plan "C" provided data on the number of permanent members in the SNB platoon, the number of military reinforcements it was able to muster, and the number of reinforcements to come from the next higher SNB station and from the SNB higher echelon. Plan "C" also listed the location of the armament and supply storehouse and the method for guarding it; this plan was to be retained by the military garrison command.
5. Military reservists were to be selected under the supervision of the garrison command. Reserve officers, cadets and physicians could not be enrolled. The

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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plans were to be ready by the end of July 1948 and were to be kept up-to-date. Armaments and supplies for these military reinforcements were furnished the SNB platoons in July 1948, but by October 1949 no replacements had been sent.

6. The staff of the 33rd Infantry Regiment, Army Unit 4515, at Cheb (N51/P37) has made a check of a portion of the border and has decided upon the positions and strength of SOS units and the positions of machine guns, obstacles, and antitank ditches.

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